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MITFORD & LAUNDITCH
R.D.C.

ANNUAL REPORTS



of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Engineer and Public Health Inspector

1960

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. B. GUILD, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Engineer & Public Health Inspector

R. L. BARKER, A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

G. DAVIES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

G. Q. KIBBLEWHITE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

MITFORD AND LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH FOR 1960

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1960.

The estimated mid-year population of the district was 18,210, a decrease of 60 as compared with the previous year.

VITAL STATISTICS

263 births, of which 12 were illegitimate, were registered during the year, and there were 213 deaths from all causes.

The birth rate, 14.44, has decreased by 0.77 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 1959; the England and Wales rate for 1960 was 17.1. The illegitimate live births accounted for 4.5% of the total live births.

There were 8 still births during the year, giving a still birth rate of 29.5 (per 1,000 live and still births). The England and Wales rate was 19.7.

The births comparability factor, the ratio of the national to the local fertility index, was 1.16.

The number of deaths, 213, was 49 less than in 1959 and gives a death rate of 11.70, a decrease of 2.64 per 1,000. The England and Wales rate was 11.5. In the main the decrease in deaths was accounted for by the following categories :-

(a)	Coronary disease, angina	- 8
(b)	Other heart disease	- 18
(c)	Influenza	- 20

The deaths comparability factor was 0.81.

There was only one death of infants under 1 year of age and this occurred in the first week of life. This must be considered an unusual event and unlikely to recur for many years. The cause of death was given as anexia with diaphragmatic hernia, associated with prematurity. The infant mortality rate is therefore 4 and the same as the neo-natal mortality rate. The birth was legitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of the notifiable diseases is given in the following tables, the first giving the total notifications with the corresponding figures for the previous three years, and the second table giving the age distribution.

	1960	1959	1958	1957
Scarlet fever	6	26	9	5
Erysipelas	-	-	1	1
Measles	98	222	31	630
Whooping cough	52	9	3	135
Pneumonia	5	20	9	16
Poliomyelitis	-	-	2	1
Dysentery	40	-	4	16
Food poisoning	7	7	8	2
Infectious hepatitis	2	1	-	2
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	-	2
Meningitis	-	-	-	1
Totals	211	286	67	811

Disease	Age Group												
	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	1	9	3	14	50	16	3	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	3	2	3	2	3	20	15	2	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	2	-	-	1	12	12	2	8	1	-	1	-
Infectious hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	5	13	7	19	89	44	8	13	4	2	1	-

From the above tables it will be noted that measles, whooping cough and some dysentery provided 190 of the notifications.

Whooping Cough

52 cases were notified and of these 13 occurred under the age of 5. Several of these had been immunised against the disease and there can be no doubt that this measure was responsible, in the main, for the disease being generally mild in character.

Dysentery

Although only 40 cases were notified I am quite certain that the incidence in the district was much higher. The more one looks for the disease the more cases will be brought to light.

In general the dysentery was mild in character but the highly infectious character of the disease must not be forgotten. The diarrhoea of some dysentery can be very slight and mothers may not consider it necessary to call in the family doctor for what appears to be a small matter. Some mothers learned a sharp lesson when they themselves succumbed to a moderately severe attack of the disease. It is quite wrong to believe that the presence of blood and mucus must be seen by the naked eye in the motion before the disease can be called dysentery.

Experience during the year has therefore confirmed the need for mothers to beware of "simple" diarrhoea and equally for general practitioners to notify promptly cases of dysentery and to make full use of the laboratory services for correct diagnosis.

These elementary procedures are very necessary if an outbreak of some dysentery is to be brought quickly under control.

Health Education is not the prerogative of the Medical Officer of Health. In so far as health education is concerned sonne dysentery is no different from any other illness and the initial education ought to be undertaken by the general practitioner called in to treat the case.

Extensive use was made of the pamphlet on "Dysentery" issued by the Central Council for Health Education and the Education Committee of the Norfolk County Council issued instructions to Head Teachers on the subject.

Treatment is relatively unimportant in sonne dysentery - the carrier state, on the other hand, is extremely important.

In the prevention of dysentery much emphasis is laid on the washing of hands and very rightly so. I would suggest that cold water in the winter months is hardly likely to commend itself to a child or adult who has dysentery. The provision of hot water in all schools for hand washing is one of the improvements which are long overdue.

I consider also that, in the home, the provision of hot water in W.C's which are separate from the bathroom is another worth while provision. At its meeting on 31st October 1960 the Housing Committee "resolved to recommend to the Council that such provision in future house building programmes be accepted in principle and that meantime the Architects do consider the best and most economical means of implementing this decision: further that the matter be borne in mind when considering the modernisation of pre-war dwellings".

This suggestion should also be considered in plans submitted by private builders.

Food Poisoning

A small outbreak occurred in a family who visited friends in another district. After an elaborate tea the family returned home by car and within 3 hours of the meal the boy aged 4 developed acute symptoms.

Shortly afterwards his sister, father and mother became ill. The boy had only eaten sandwiches containing salmon, of foreign origin, and this was presumed to be the cause of the illness. Unfortunately no pathogenic organisms were isolated on laboratory investigation.

In a second family outbreak due to *Salmonella typhimurium*, suspicion fell on a young puppy which had been introduced into the home. I did not follow up this angle.

A single case was picked up as the result of a laboratory report received three weeks after the onset of the illness. The infant's father worked on a farm where some months previously there had been cases of calves dying from enteritis. It was interesting to note that the farmer himself brought up the question of salmonellosis when I discussed the illness with him.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 8 cases were added to the register of whom one was an inward transfer. Four of the remainder were in R.A.F. personnel at Swanton Morley R.A.F. Station - these were discovered as the result of a visit by an X-ray unit.

The comparative figures for the previous three years were:-

1959 - 7 1958 - 11 1957 - 14

The distribution of the 8 cases by age and sex is given in the following table.

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 - 25	1 (R)	1 (a)	-	-
26 - 35	1 (R)	-	1	-
46 - 55	3 (R2)	-	-	-
76 - 85	-	1	-	-
	5	2	1	-

(a) denotes inward transfer; (R) denotes R.A.F. personnel.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

The numbers remaining on the register were :-

	Pulmonary			Non-pulmonary			Grand Total
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
31.12.59.	25	28	53	14	16	30	83
31.12.60.	29	26	55	13	16	29	84

The statistics for the County of Norfolk per 1,000 of the population in 1960 are given below with the data for Mitford and Launditch in brackets for purposes of comparison.

Formal Notifications			
Pulmonary	Case Rate	Non-pulmonary	Case Rate
94 (6)	0.24 (0.33)	29 (1)	0.74 (0.14)

The mortality figures for the same period were:-

11 (0)	0.028 (0)	1 (0)	0.0025 (0)
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B.C.G. VACCINATION

More work has been done in the vaccination of school children aged 13 years and above and I have now been able to bring this scheme forward to the winter term. As a result some schools have had the opportunity to participate twice during the year.

Selected children, who gave a brisk positive preliminary skin test, were X-rayed by Dr. Barran at the Dereham Hospital. It was considered advisable to follow up one girl.

The work done during the year is summarised as follows:-

(1) Number who refused skin testing	144
(2) Number skin tested	458
(3) Number found positive	84
(4) Number found negative	374
(5) Number vaccinated	359

The percentage of children giving a positive skin test was 19, whereas the figure for last year was 29.1.

When the scheme was commenced in this district in 1955 the percentage giving a positive skin test was 45 and in subsequent years the figure fell progressively, with the exception of the year 1959. There is every likelihood that the rate will continue to fall in the future.

Following the diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis in an elderly inmate of Beech House, Gressenhall, the staff were examined. 34 were skin tested, 28 were positive and the remaining 6 negatives were given B.C.G. vaccination.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

I have, with regret, to inform you that there was a marked rise again this year in deaths due to this cause - 12 in all, including 2 females. The ages at death were - male:- 45, 52, 54, 54, 59, 60, 63, 67, 67 and 72, female - 59 and 68. The range of the ages is now much closer to that pertaining to the country as a whole.

Discreet inquiries show that the majority of these unfortunate people had been heavy smokers. It can not be stated with absolute certainty that smoking is the only cause of lung cancer. There can, however, be no doubt of the very strong connection between smoking, especially of cigarettes, and lung cancer.

In the past I have referred on occasion to the fact that if one survives the first year of life the chances of living to the age of 75 are very bright. If present smoking habits are persisted in it appears probable that expectations of life will be severely curtailed.

The lesson is clear. If the will power to stop smoking is lacking then drastically curtail the consumption of cigarettes.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar General.

	Male	Female	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	2	9
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	12
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	11	22
Leukaemia, Aleukacmia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	18	33
Coronary disease, angina	12	16	28
Hypertension with heart disease	2	-	2
Other heart disease	17	19	36
Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	9	8	17
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	5	9
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2	5
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	-	1	1
	109	104	213

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	102,371
Population (estimated mid-1960)	18,210
Rateable Value (1st April 1960)	£95,020
Estimated product of a penny rate	£ 373

MEDICAL STATISTICS

Extracts from vital statistics for the year, relating to the net births and deaths, after correction for outward and inward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General.

				Mitford & Launditch 1960	1959	England & Wales 1960
	Males	Females	Total			
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	126	125	251			
Illegitimate	7	5	12			
Total	133	130	263			
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				14.44	15.21	17.1
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>						
Legitimate	6	1	7			
Illegitimate	-	1	1			
Total	6	2	8			
Still birth rate per 1,000 of the total live and still births				29.5	28	19.7
<u>DEATHS</u> (All ages)	109	104	213			
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				11.70	14.34	11.5
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u> (under 1 year)						
Legitimate	1	-	1			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	1	-	1			
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births				4	28.78	21.5

IMMUNISATION SCHEMES

During the year immunisation against tetanus was offered as a routine to school children on the same lines as diphtheria and polio. This involves a course of three injections and a considerable period must elapse before the majority of the children can be protected.

With the number and variety of injections now available mothers often have only a hazy knowledge of the injections their children have received. The more universal use by general practitioners of the personal record of protective inoculations would assist here, provided mothers ensured that the record was kept up to date. It is regrettable that so few mothers take the trouble to do so.

The immunisation state of the children against diphtheria can be regarded as being reasonably satisfactory.

This does not imply that there is no room for improvement and mothers with young children need constantly to be reminded of their responsibilities in this direction. It is worthy of note that the fathers in some cases are the ones who refuse to give consent to immunisation.

Diphtheria will cease to exist in a highly protected community. The fact that several deaths occurred in different parts of the country in the last quarter of 1960 and again in London in the first quarter of 1961 should serve as a potent reminder to all who are interested in the well being of the community.

The following immunisations were carried out during the year by general practitioners and the Assistant County Medical Officer, the information being derived from records received in my office.

Diphtheria Along

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	1	1	-	-	1	27	3	33
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	1	144	277	422
Total								455

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	6
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Total								8

Diphtheria and Tetanus

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	-	-	-	-	1	27	2	30

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary	133	43	9	6	2	8	-	201
Reinforcing	-	-	4	3	2	2	-	11
Total								212

Two children were given a primary course of injections against whooping cough alone while one child was given a booster.

Tetanus

Steady progress has been made in the protection against tetanus. Excluding the injections referred to above 406 children under the age of 15 have been given a complete course, and also 219 individuals aged 15 and over. Two booster were also given.

Polioomyelitis Vaccination

The demand for this vaccination has naturally fallen off during the year.

By the 31st December, 1960, the following groups had complete a course of three injections.

(1)	Children born in the years 1956 - 60	879
(2)	Children born in the years 1943 - 55	3675
(3)	Young persons born in the years 1933 - 42	1333
(4)	Persons born before 1933 and not passed 40	246
(5)	Others	<u>25</u>
Total		<u>6158</u>

Smallpox Vaccinations

The number of records received from general practitioners would appear to show that there has been a fall in the number of infants vaccinated during the year as shown in the following table.

	Under 1	1-	2-4	5-14	15 & Over	Total
Primary	63	2	2	4	12	83
Revaccination	-	1	-	2	5	<u>8</u>
Total						<u>91</u>

It is regretted that an arithmetical error occurred in last year's report. The total primary vaccinations should have read 99 not 79 giving a combined total of 115 not 95.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Local Health Services under Part III

Domestic Help Services

52 occasional home helps were employed during the year and 45 cases were assisted in Mitford and Launditch.

Mental Health - Administration

Mr. A. Boothman, Welfare Officer, remained in charge.

The Mental Health Act of 1959 came into operation on 1st November 1960, and alters the method of admission of patients to hospital.

During the year patients were dealt with under the old provisions as well as the new. Briefly the 1959 Act provides for admission as follows:-

- INFORMAL - the procedure is the same as that for admission to any hospital and in fact was being implemented for several months before the passing of the Act.
- Sec. 25 - For observation for a period of 28 days.
- Sec. 29 - Emergency admission for 3 days.
- Sec. 26 - Treatment admission. The period is not stipulated and is subject to review.

Application for admission can be made by a relative or by the Mental Welfare Officer and applications must be supported by a medical recommendation. Under one section or another 56 patients were admitted to hospital during the year.

Mental Defectives

Under the 1959 Act no provision is made for "Statutory Supervision" and the term "mental defective" has been replaced by terms "subnormal person" - formerly feeble minded person, and "severely subnormal person" - formerly imbeciles and idiots. These persons will continue to receive friendly guidance and advice, which might be termed "friendly oversight" and provision for attending Training Centres and Social Centres and receiving home teaching, where appropriate, will continue.

Receiving "friendly oversight"	35
Attending training centres	9

Owing to the prolonged illness of the Home Teacher the social centre held at Dereham has been suspended for several months. The activities of the centre will be resumed when a new teacher is appointed.

Old People's Welfare

There are 13 old people's clubs in the district.

22 persons were admitted to Part III accommodation and of these 7 were admitted to the new hostel, St. Nicholas House, recently built in Dereham.

No cases were dealt with under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of written notices	Occup- iers pros- ecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	18	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	61	5	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total	60	79	5	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	9	9	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-
Total	10	9	-	-

HOUSING

Owing to a revision of the housing list the number of applicants remaining on the list at 31st December 1960 has been reduced and now stands at 240.

The number of houses erected during the year was

(a)	By the Council	28
(b)	By private enterprise	31

The financial restrictions in recent years has resulted in a slowing down of the Council's new building and this has been paralleled by a reduction in the number of unfit houses the Council has dealt with.

From the Public Health Inspector's report you will note that 500 houses still remain to be dealt with under the 5 and 10 year plans. As the years pass by more houses are falling into the category of "unfit for human habitation" and next year we must make a determined effort to deal with a much larger number of houses which are considered to be unfit. Further I feel that we must not restrict our activities to parishes where the Council has already purchased land for building purposes.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. GUILD,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF

ENGINEER & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

for the Year 1960

WATER SUPPLIES

CONSTRUCTION

No further works of mainlaying were carried out during the year and after the completion of the Fransham booster station no capital works schemes were in progress.

An iron removal filter was installed at Mattishall during the year and is working satisfactorily.

During the summer months difficulty was experienced in maintaining the supply required by Corbatch Cannery Limited. Discussions took place with the firm who indicated that they were intending to increase their production which would mean that they would require up to 40,000 gallons per day. They were informed that such a supply could be offered provided extra filtration equipment was installed at the headworks and as they have agreed to bear the cost of the installation this matter has now been put in hand.

SCHEMES IN PROGRAMME

General

Following submission of outline schemes for Bintree, Tittleshall and Great Dunham the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicated that they would like the Council to reconsider their policy of isolated village schemes. The Council thereupon amended their schemes, based on bulk supplies from adjoining authorities.

North Eastern Parishes

An approach was made to the St. Faith's and Aylsham R.D.C. concerning their existing supply at Foulsham and as a result of this the proposals for the Bintree scheme were enlarged to take supplies to Guist, Twyford, Bintree, Bawdeswell, Billingford, Foxley and Sparham.

It is envisaged that water will be purchased in bulk from St. Faith's and Aylsham R.D.C. at the Foulsham-Bintree boundary and boosted into a high level balancing reservoir at Foxley. The scheme was submitted to the Ministry and the Norfolk County Council and the former suggested that it should also be discussed with the Water Engineer of Norwich, as the area in question is to come within the Norwich City Water Undertaking under the Regrouping proposals. Arrangements have been made for these discussions to take place early in 1961.

Tittleshall

The Minister has indicated that in the absence of any major source in the vicinity he is prepared to approve the proposals for Tittleshall based on a village scheme supplied from the Housing Site borehole as a temporary measure to meet urgent local needs.

Great Dunham

The revised proposals are based on the extension of the existing 4" water main in Little Dunham to afford a supply to Great Dunham. This means that the village will be linked with the Bradenham scheme in the Swaffham Rural District. To ensure adequate pressure in the village it is necessary to instal a booster station and the Council has decided that this shall be sited so as to improve existing pressures in Little Dunham at the same time.

Hardingham

The Council has asked Forehoe and Henstead R.D.C. for a bulk supply for the parish of Hardingham in connection with that Council's scheme for Deopham, Morley and Hingham. This has been agreed and Ministry approval received to the proposals. At the end of the year a contract was being negotiated with the main contractor for the Forehoe and Henstead R.D.C. scheme and it is hoped that work will commence during 1961.

East Tuddenham

I have been instructed to prepare a water scheme for the parish of East Tuddenham as an extension from the Council's scheme at Mattishall.

Southern Parishes

Preliminary consideration was given to supplies for the parishes of Yaxham, Whinburgh, Garvestone, Wendling and Scarning. As the East Dereham U.D.C. has under consideration the question of water supply arrangements for their own district it was decided that they should be approached to see whether their proposals could incorporate supplies to any or each of these villages.

Central Parishes

Preliminary consideration was given to the provision and development of the source of supply for the parishes of Horningtoft, Stanfield, Brisley, Beetley, Longham and part of Gressenhall and it was decided that this scheme be further considered when the other proposals, particularly those for the North Eastern Parishes, are farther advanced.

MAINTENANCE

The hot enamel treatment to the inside base of part of North Elmham tank appears to have solved the problem of corrosion and instructions have now been given for the other part of the tank to be similarly treated.

I have also been instructed to obtain prices for the repainting of the water tanks and towers at Mattishall, North Elmham and Little Fransham.

IRON REMOVAL

The Council has given consideration to the numerous complaints received over the excessive amount of iron in the supplies at Colkirk, Whissonsett, Hockering and Swanton Morley. I have therefore been instructed to prepare schemes for consideration by the Council for the installation of iron removal plants at these headworks.

Now that a mains supply scheme has been approved for Hardingham and that Foxley is in the current North Eastern Parishes scheme it was decided not to proceed with the installation of small iron removal plants on the housing sites in those parishes.

Parish	Promises with main available	Applications pending	% connected	% connected + applications
Lt. Dunham	63	-	94%	94%
Hockering	94	1	76%	77%
Rougham	67	-	98%	98%
Whissonsett	141	-	82%	82%
North Elmham	260	-	82%	82%
Mattishall	282	2	79%	80%
Litcham	194	-	80%	80%
Shipdham	352	-	78%	78%
Colkirk	150	11	76%	83%
Milcham	108	-	81%	81%
Swanton Morley	151	-	81%	81%
* Scarning	30	1	96%	100%
Beoston	113	1	76%	77%
Lyng	113	1	82%	83%
Lt. Fransham	57	6	84%	95%
Weasonham	139	10	80%	88%
Total	2314	33	81%	82%

* Part village only.

The above table shows the position up to the 31st December as far as the percentage of connections made, as against the number of possibles.

Statistics

Parish	No. of Connections	Estimated Population	No. Meters	Gallons Pumped
Lt. Dunham	61	196	7	-
Hockering	72	232	4	977,433
Rougham	66	213	3	587,670
Whissonsett	116	373	8	1,650,545
North Elmham	213	686	16	3,777,200
Mattishall	223	718	18	4,226,570
Litcham	155	499	8	2,275,230
Shipdham	277	892	14	-
Colkirk	114	367	3	1,450,123
Milcham	88	283	12	1,404,279
Swanton Morley	123	396	15	2,249,677
Scarning	29	93	1	-
Beeston	86	277	16	8,304,430
Lyng	93	299	8	1,459,446
Lt. Fransham	48	155	8	862,653
Weasenham	112	361	5	1,813,662
Total	1876	6040	146	31,038,918
Total 1959	1708	5495	125	26,801,536

Statistics

Gallons Purchased	Gallons Consumed	Gallons by Meter	Average G.P.H./Day	Average G.P.Day
693,782	693,782	625,000	9.67	1896
-	977,433	174,000	11.51	2671
-	587,670	75,000	7.61	1606
-	1,650,545	372,000	12.09	4510
-	3,777,200	738,000	15.00	10306
-	4,226,570	675,000	16.57	11548
-	2,275,230	435,000	12.69	6216
3,499,940	3,499,940	666,000	11.82	9563
-	1,450,123	76,000	10.98	3962
-	1,404,279	644,000	14.00	3837
-	2,249,677	754,000	15.55	6147
339,570	339,570	13,000	9.97	927
-	8,304,430	4,984,000	75.13	22690
-	1,459,446	527,000	15.52	3988
-	862,653	105,000	16.03	2357
-	1,813,662	501,000	17.12	4955
4,533,292	35,572,210	11,364,000	17.83	97192
4,559,390	31,360,926	5,916,000	17.88	90850

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 90 samples were taken as under :-

Wells	...	56	Satisfactory	22
			Unsatisfactory	33
			Suspicious	1
Bores	...	34	Satisfactory	27
			Unsatisfactory	4
			Suspicious	3

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

North Elmham Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme

The Council's proposals for the above scheme were considered both by the Parish Council and a Parish Meeting which I attended together with the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Consulting Engineers. The scheme was agreed and then submitted to the Norfolk County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

At the end of the year a number of matters connected with Planning approval, the purchase of land and the acceptance of trade effluent from the United Dairies milk depot were still unresolved but it is hoped that some progress towards receiving the approval of the Minister will be achieved early in 1961.

Sewer Connections

When approving the North Elmham scheme consideration was given to the Council's policy to be adopted in connection with this and similar schemes with regard to connections from the house to the sewer. The Council finally decided that laterals should be provided from the sewer to a convenient curtilage; that such work should be included in the schemes submitted to the Minister and that the work should be carried out at the same time as the construction of the sewer.

Litcham Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme

The Council approved outline proposals which I submitted during the year for the sewerage of Litcham and the siting of the sewage works. This has enabled me to proceed with the preparation of the detailed scheme although this has not progressed as rapidly as I would have wished owing to the lack of technical staff. At the end of the year the Council was giving active consideration to this matter of staff and it is hoped that as a result of their decision this scheme will be submitted to the Minister during 1961.

Other Schemes

During the year the Council formulated a policy to integrate the Housing programme and the construction of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in order to avoid the construction of small Housing Site plants as far as possible where there is a likelihood of a public sewer becoming available.

As the first part of the programme it was agreed that sewerage and sewage disposal schemes should be prepared for the parishes of Shipdham, Mattishall and Hockering.

Ditches

The piping of approximately 120 yards of ditch at Little Fransham was in progress at the end of the year.

55 visits were made in connection with ditches.

Drainage

A further 25 existing houses installed W.C.'s, mainly as a result of improvement grants.

115 visits were made in connection with drainage during the year.

CLEANSING SCHEME

General

When the cesspool emptying vehicle was delivered at the beginning of the year it completed the Council's new fleet of three night soil vehicles, one cesspool emptier and two refuse collecting vehicles.

The purchase of land from East Dereham U.D.C. for a vehicle depot site in Rushmeadow Road, Scarning was completed during the year. Planning permission has been obtained together with loan sanction from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and at the end of the year detailed plans and specifications were in course of preparation.

Although it had been my intention to leave the appointment of a Foreman until the depot was completed it became apparent that too much of Mr. Davies' time was being taken up in this connection to the detriment of the rest of his duties. The Council therefore decided to appoint their Water Foreman, Mr. G. Stevenson, as General Foreman in charge of both the Water Department and the Cleansing Department. This arrangement commenced on the 15th November, 1960.

Refuse Collection

The fortnightly collection was maintained throughout the year but there has been no improvement in the dustbin situation in the district. In my opinion this is a matter which should be given consideration now that the difficulties caused by the changeover from contract to direct labour have been largely overcome.

During recent years there is no doubt that the fly population has increased and it has been more difficult to control the problem at the tips by the use of insecticides to which the flies seem to be developing some degree of immunity. A properly covered refuse receptacle would go some way towards reducing the potential breeding grounds apart from reducing the unsightliness of our villages on refuse collecting days.

Night Soil Collection and Cesspool Emptying

The weekly night soil collection has been carried out throughout the year.

1697 cesspool servicings were made, compared with 1538 during 1959.

252 visits were made in connection with the Refuse and Night Soil collection services, including the inspection of tips.

It will be noticed that the number of cesspool servicings has increased considerably over the past year. This has been partly due to the extremely wet summer and autumn which reduced the soakage capacity of the land and which no doubt also contributed infiltration water. On the other hand there have been a number of new properties constructed with septic tank drainage. Where such proposed new development is grouped on estates I have no doubt that in a few years time, as the soakage areas become clogged, there will be an increased demand for cesspool emptying, and complaints of nuisance arising from the sewage clogged ground. Such complaints already arise on many of our Council Housing Sites, which rely on septic tank systems and land irrigation disposal, and although we have constructed new soakage areas this can only be regarded as a palliative. During the past year the Council has approved two small estate developments where the applicant is undertaking to put in a small sewage disposal unit to the Council's satisfaction which will be taken over by them on completion of the estate. As far as the other sites are concerned, particularly Mattishall and Shipdham, it is hoped that the Council's sewerage programme will eliminate these septic tank systems. It is also to be hoped that this programme can be carried on expeditiously in other villages where the problem can become acute within the next few years.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The general supervision and control of the rat catchers has been carried out by Mr. Davies.

Your Council employ three full time rat catchers who cover the whole area. A summary of their work is given below:-

Type of Property	No. Inspected	Infestation	
		Major	Minor
L.A.	103	-	49
Dwellings	12576	-	1548
Agricultural	1586	-	111
Business Premises	508	-	2
Total	14773	-	1610

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No. of complaints investigated	...	31
No. of inspections and re-inspections	...	92
No. of Moveable Dwellings inspected	...	28
Informal requests to carry out work of repair etc.	...	31
Work completed as a result of above	...	24
Statutory Notices served	...	Nil
Work completed	...	Nil
No. houses considered incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	...	27
Demolition Orders made	...	27
Closing Orders made	...	12
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	1

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Total houses scheduled under the programme	...	540
No. dealt with during 1960	...	40
Houses remaining	...	500

During the year action was taken in respect of the Slum Clearance Programme in the villages of Billington, Gressenhall, Foxley, North Elmham, Litcham, Beetley, Swanton Morley, Great Fransham and Shipdham.

21 houses which have been subjects of Demolition Orders were actually demolished during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Standard Grants

Total dwellings for which grant approved to date	...	35
Total dwellings for which grant approved in 1960	...	24
Total dwellings work completed to date	...	22
Total dwellings work completed in 1960	...	22
Value of Grants approved to date	...	£4450
Value of grants approved in 1960	...	£3000

Summary of items					
	Bath	Basin	Hot water	W.C.	Food Store
Proposed	27	29	28	34	17
Installed	15	16	16	21	9

Discretionary Grants

Total dwellings for which grant approved to date	...	191
Total dwellings for which grant approved during 1960	...	13
Total dwellings work completed	...	165
Total dwellings work completed 1960	...	19
Value of grants approved to date	... £	50,483
Value of grants approved during 1960	... £	4,475

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Preliminary visits and consultation (both schemes)	85
Visits to work in progress (both schemes)	97

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The above Act came into force on the 29th August and revised the licensing and planning procedure in respect of caravan sites.

There are 2 sites in the district which have more than one van (one site of 12 vans and one of 9 vans). There are 26 single vans stationed at isolated points throughout the district and in all cases they are used for residential purposes.

The Council has prepared a list of conditions for attaching to the licences and consultations are in progress with the Planning authority on this subject. This type of accommodation has not in the past proved a problem in the district.

FOOD PREMISES

No. of food premises in the area	...	188
No. of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955		
(a) Ice Cream	...	59
(b) Sausages etc.	...	10
No. of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 - 1954.	...	22
No. of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary	...	26
No. of visits to other food premises	...	31
No educational activities are carried out.		
No special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been found necessary.		
There are no producers in the district under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations 1947 - 1952.		

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

No. of licensed slaughterhouses	...	7
No. of visits	...	556

There has been a large increase in the number of animals slaughtered in the district during the year because of the new slaughterhouse at Elsing operated by Messrs. Baker Bros. This came into operation in February and is working satisfactorily. Nevertheless this means that approximately 50% of one inspector's time is now devoted to this aspect of our work. A happy relationship exists between this establishment and the department due to the spirit of co-operation between Mr. Baker and Mr. Kibblewhite.

The slaughterhouse report required under Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food before the 6th November, 1960 was submitted on the 15th July. In this it was recommended that the Council considered that one slaughterhouse was already up to standard; that four slaughterhouses could be brought up to standard; and one slaughterhouse could not be brought up to standard. It was also noted that two slaughterhouses, although licensed, were not in use.

Subsequent to the submission of the report, the Ministry pointed out that the lairage accommodation for Messrs. Baker Bros. slaughterhouse would need to be separately licensed. At the end of the year the administrative work in this connection was proceeding and it is understood that this was holding up the Minister's decision on the report.

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.				
	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1877	2540	1630	Nil
Number inspected	1873	2528	1619	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci				
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	8	4	Nil
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	281	32	96	Nil

	Cattle	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	15.00	1.22	5.49	Nil
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	Nil	10	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.074	Nil	.61	Nil
Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	20	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and Totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Petroleum Acts

8 new licences were issued and 29 inspections were made in connection with existing and proposed installations.

Milk - Special Designations

Dealers licences to use designation T.T.	...	18
Dealers licences to use pasteurised	...	16
Dealers licences to use sterilised	...	6
Supplementary licences to use designation T.T.	...	3
Supplementary licences to use pasteurised	...	5
Supplementary licences to use sterilised	...	1
Visits to milk retailers	...	14

In all cases where designated milk licences are in force, the milk is purchased in bottle from wholesale dairies outside the district.

Factories Act, 1937 - 1948

79 visits were made to Factories, and details of these and action taken in respect of these regulations are included at the end of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. L. BARKER,

Engineer & Public Health Inspector.

